

The *Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA)* requires each district and charter school to complete and submit a justification when it anticipates exceeding 1.0 percent of students assessed in a subject area with the NCEXTEND1 alternate assessment. Justifications from each district and charter school will be reviewed by the North Carolina Department of Public Instruction (NCDPI), and follow up actions will be determined based on the information found in the justification document. Staff from the Exceptional Children and Accountability Divisions in each district and charter school should collaborate to provide the following information on the justification document. Responses to numbers 1–4 are required; it is optional to include additional information (see page 3). This justification document will be publicly posted. As such, the document **must not contain any personally identifiable information**. If necessary, additional pages may be attached to this form.

1. Enter contact information for the primary district charter school staff member responsible for overseeing the completion of the justification form.	
<b>3-Digit LEA/Charter Code:</b> 870	<b>District/Charter Name:</b> Swain County Schools
<b>Contact Name:</b> Michael Treadway	<b>Contact Title:</b> EC Director
<b>Contact Phone No.:</b> 828-488-3129	<b>Contact E-Mail:</b> mtreadway@swainmail.org
<p>2. Enter a description of how the district/charter school will assure that Individualized Education Program (IEP) teams are adhering to the eligibility criteria as outlined in the <i>Testing Students with Disabilities</i> publication when determining student eligibility for participation in the alternate assessment.</p> <p>All students receive core instruction on extended core standards. All students enrolled in the Extend I EOG have global delays in all academic areas with significant cognitive delays. Evaluations used to determine placement reflect these delays. Students in the classification of MU, OHI, IDMI, and IDMO are the only students considered for Extend I testing. Measures are in place to transition students into regular EOG testing with accommodations.</p>	
<p>3. Enter a description of how any disproportionality among race, gender, or socioeconomic status groups is defined and plans for how that disproportionality will be addressed.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Description of how any disproportionality among race, gender, or socioeconomic status groups is defined:</li> </ul> <p>Based on the most current state target percentiles, Swain County is not showing disproportionately in indicators 9 and 10.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Plans for how disproportionality will be addressed:</li> </ul>	
<p>4. Enter additional justification of variables not covered but deemed essential to understanding why the district/charter school has a higher rate of alternate assessment participation.</p> <p>All students that participate in Extend I testing receive all of their core instruction in self-contained classrooms using the extended core standards. Placement in the self-contained classrooms is supported by information obtained on current evaluations. All students currently enrolled in the Extend I testing are monitored for progress and moved to the regular EOG testing with accommodations when appropriate. All educators who administer the alternate assessment meet the requirements for test administrators and have a strong knowledge and background of the students they are testing.</p>	

**Signatures**

Superintendent/Charter School Director	<u>Janet M. Clapsaddle</u>	Date	<u>4/30/2018</u>
Exceptional Children Director	<u>[Signature]</u>	Date	<u>4/30/2018</u>
LEA Charter Test Coordinator	<u>[Signature]</u>	Date	<u>4/30/2018</u>

The completed justification form must be signed by the superintendent/charter school director, exceptional children's director, and testing coordinator. The form must be scanned and emailed to [alternateassessment@ncdpi.nc.gov](mailto:alternateassessment@ncdpi.nc.gov) by May 4, 2018.

The NCDPI will notify districts/charter schools in writing if further information is needed and will include next steps. For questions, please contact your Exceptional Children Director or Regional Accountability Coordinator.

Note: See page 3 for additional information that can be included but is not required.